University of Phoenix®

College of Social Sciences

Associate Of Arts With A Concentration In Psychology

University of Phoenix offers an Associate of Arts degree with a range of concentrations in business, criminal justice, education, health and human services, information technology, and more. The curriculum provides a foundation and overview within the academic disciplines of communication arts, social sciences, mathematics, life sciences, and the humanities. Instruction focuses on the development of student skills in writing, critical thinking, and information utilization, as well as foundational competencies in the selected concentration.

The Associate of Arts with a concentration in Psychology provides an overview of positive psychology, theories of personality, human sexuality, the physiological and neurological bases of human behavior, diversity, psychological disorders, and social interactions. Students learn to analyze the interrelationship of fundamental psychological theories and how they define and explain human behavior, development, and abnormalities. Students will also critically evaluate the robustness of various psychometrics, develop their own psychological theories based on a conglomeration of principles outlined by experts in the field, and assess the impact of cognition on physical and mental health.

Nine weeks in length, courses are offered in pairs, or "blocks," designed to complement each other. In these courses, emphasis alternates weekly between reading and online discussion one week and a work project the next.

The completion of an Associate of Arts degree represents an important milestone for many students as they pursue their educational goals.

Required Course of Study

PSY201 Foundations Of Psychology
This course overviews the foundations of psychology as the field applies to everyday life. The physical and mental aspects of psychology are traced through lifespan development with emphasis on psychological health and wellness. Further study focuses on personality; thinking, learning and memory; motivation and emotions; and gender and sexuality. Based in various historical traditions, the course is set in the context of contemporary psychological principles.
(3 credits)

PSY220 Positive Psychology: What's Right With Me
How much control do we have over our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors? What does it mean to be “free”? This course offers the student a contemporary and relevant approach to the study of psychology and, in the process, the opportunity to learn more about themselves. In the course, the student will be able to evaluate, understand, and build on their psychological strengths and those of others. (3 credits)

PSY230 Theories Of Personality: I Think, Therefore Who Am I?
What is theory? What is personality? What is your theory of your personality? This course introduces the student to a number of personality theorists, their personalities, and their views in offering insight in to the question of the self. Psychoanalytic, social, behavioral, traits, biological, humanistic, and cognitive are some of the theories that will be discussed in this course.
(3 credits)

PSY240 The Brain, The Body, And The Mind: All Together Now
This course provides an introduction to the investigation of physiological and neurological basis for human behavior. The student will be able to study and discuss various influences on personality development, such as pre-natal maternal behavior; gender; nature versus nurture; brain development; genetic composition; sensory motor interactions; learning disabilities; drug impacts; and neurological diseases. (3 credits)

PSY265 Psychology Of Human Sexuality
This course is a comprehensive view of the psychosocial and physiological aspects of sexual health in our contemporary society. The student will have opportunities to explore numerous relevant topics including love, intimacy, and relationships; sex and marketing; sexual diseases; sexual abuse; gender identity and sex roles; and socio-cultural influences and values in decision making. The course is designed for the student to understand attitudes and behaviors as they relate to sexual well-being and integrity. (3 credits)

PSY270 Abnormal Psychology: Abuse, Addiction, And Disorders
This course introduces the study of major psychological disorders as defined in the DSM-IV, including their diagnoses, causes, and treatments. It covers such subjects as depression, bipolarity, anxiety, panic, somatoform, dissociation, substance abuse, anorexia, schizophrenia, and childhood disorders, as well as gender and cultural differences. (3 credits)

Communications

COM155 University Composition And Communication I
This course addresses the key elements necessary for effective academic writing in college. The course begins with focus on prewriting strategies and builds to drafting and revising essays. In addition, the course includes skill development at the sentence and paragraph level. (3 credits)

For more information about this program, including important consumer disclosures, please visit http://www.phoenix.edu/programs/ge/aapsy.html

COM156 University Composition And Communication II
This course builds upon the foundations established in COM/155. It addresses the various rhetorical modes necessary for effective college essays: narration, illustration, description, process analysis, classification, definition, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and argumentation. In addition, requirements for research essays, including the use of outside sources and appropriate formatting, are considered. (3 credits)

Mathematics

MAT219 Introduction To College Algebra
This course introduces algebraic concepts providing a solid foundation for college algebra. Topics range from properties of real numbers, the order of operations, and algebraic expressions to solving equations and inequalities. Additional topics include polynomials, factoring methods, rational and radical expressions as well as graphing and functions. (3 credits)

MAT220 College Algebra
This course presents traditional concepts in college algebra. Topics include linear, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, systems of equations, sequences, series, and probability.
(3 credits)

Additional Liberal Arts

US101 Introduction To University Studies
The essential information, skills, tools, and techniques necessary for academic success and personal effectiveness at University of Phoenix are introduced in this course. The course develops and applies practical knowledge and skills immediately relevant to first-year university students. Course topics include goal setting and working with personal motivation, understanding and using university resources, developing efficient study habits, making the most of personal learning styles, and how best to manage time and reduce personal stress levels. (3 credits)

FP101 Foundations Of Personal Finance
This course provides an overview of the elements necessary for effective personal financial planning and the opportunity to apply the techniques and strategies essential to this understanding. Primary areas of study include creating and managing a personal budget, understanding and paying taxes, working with financial institutions, wise use of credit cards and consumer loans, financing automobiles and homes, and the use of insurance for protecting one’s family and property. (3 credits)

Science and Technology

SCI162 Principles Of Health And Wellness
This course reinforces the concept that learning effectively and living well involves both the mind and body. It presents the fundamentals of wellness and preventive health including strategic planning to attain and maintain personal optimal health. In addition, physical and mental diseases are discussed along with the dangers of environmental pollution, stress, addiction, and other negative factors that can affect personal health.
(3 credits)

BIO100 Introduction To Life Science With Lab
This course applies a broad, conceptual understanding of biology. Students are introduced to scientific ideologies and concepts that not only shape the biological world, but also shape humans. Students examine the scientific method, evolution and biodiversity, the biology of cells, physiology, the dynamics of inheritance, and the effect humans have on the environment. The text emphasizes methods and the theoretical foundations of ideas, while minimizing isolated facts. It stresses the integration of ideas, making connections that form our understanding of the living world. The weekly online labs add a practical component to the class. The labs build upon the concepts in the text and offer a chance to interact with the material and further their understanding.. (4 credits)

CHM109 Introductory Chemistry
This course will examine the basic principles of chemistry conceptually and specifically. The course will apply chemical concepts to address relevant issues ranging from atomic structure and chemical reactions to organic and biological chemistry. The course topics include matter and energy, chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, chemical equilibrium, and nuclear, organic, and biological chemistry. Students will apply these concepts using practical examples, facilitated discussions, and experiments conducted through a virtual laboratory. (3 credits)

Humanities

HUM111 Critical And Creative Thinking
This course focuses on developing the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to analyze and solve problems, make decisions, implement strategies, and formulate well-supported points of view on key academic, social, and professional issues. The principles of creative thinking are essential to critical thinking skills. Students will learn how to evaluate their ideas and how to communicate their points of view persuasively. (3 credits)

HUM176 Media And American Culture
The course provides an introduction to the most prominent forms of media that influence and impact social, business, political, and popular culture in contemporary America. It explores the unique aspects of each medium as well as interactions across various media that combine to create rich environments for information sharing, entertainment, business, and social interaction in the U.S.and around the world. (3 credits)

Social Science

ETH125 Cultural Diversity
This course is designed to educate students about issues of race, ethnicity, and gender in the United States by presenting historical and modern perspectives on diversity. (3 credits)

HIS135 The American Experience Since 1945
This course is an overview of the principal social, political, economic, and global events which have shaped the American experience since World War II. Understanding modern American history is a necessity in today's ever-changing world. This course aims to supply the tools for understanding current political, social, cultural, and economic problems in the U.S. by applying historical perspective to analyze contemporary issues. (3 credits)

PSY285 Social Psychology: Why Can't We All Just Get Along
This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the study of social psychology—how people interact with and think about others. Students are able to explore and discuss topics such as self-concept, social perception and cognition, attitudes, social identity, interpersonal attractions, social influence, human aggression, and applications of social psychology. (3 credits)

Communication Arts

COM155 University Composition And Communication I
This course addresses the key elements necessary for effective academic writing in college. The course begins with focus on prewriting strategies and builds to drafting and revising essays. In addition, the course includes skill development at the sentence and paragraph level. (3 credits)

COM156 University Composition And Communication II
This course builds upon the foundations established in COM/155. It addresses the various rhetorical modes necessary for effective college essays: narration, illustration, description, process analysis, classification, definition, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and argumentation. In addition, requirements for research essays, including the use of outside sources and appropriate formatting, are considered. (3 credits)

General Education

MAT116 Algebra 1a
This course introduces basic algebra concepts and assists in building skills for performing specific mathematical operations and problem solving. Students will solve equations, evaluate algebraic expressions, solve and graph linear equations and linear inequalities, graph lines, and solve systems of linear equations and linear inequalities. These concepts and skills will serve as a foundation for subsequent business coursework. Applications to real-world problems are also explored throughout the course. This course is the first half of the college algebra sequence, which is completed in MAT 117, Algebra 1B.
(3 credits)

MAT117 Algebra 1b
This course explores advanced algebra concepts and assists in building the algebraic and problem solving skills developed in Algebra 1A. Students will solve polynomials, quadratic equations, rational equations, and radical equations. These concepts and skills will serve as a foundation for subsequent business coursework. Applications to real-world problems are also explored throughout the course. This course is the second half of the college algebra sequence, which began with MAT 116, Algebra 1A. (3 credits)

Interdisciplinary

FP101 Foundations Of Personal Finance
This course provides an overview of the elements necessary for effective personal financial planning and the opportunity to apply the techniques and strategies essential to this understanding. Primary areas of study include creating and managing a personal budget, understanding and paying taxes, working with financial institutions, wise use of credit cards and consumer loans, financing automobiles and homes, and the use of insurance for protecting one’s family and property. (3 credits)

University of Phoenix is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. University of Phoenix was placed on Notice by The Higher Learning Commission, effective June 27, 2013. For additional information, contact The Higher Learning Commission, ncahlc.org. © 2013 University of Phoenix, Inc. All rights reserved.

Please note: A typical schedule, including progression and title of courses, may vary by location and modality. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for more information.